price of urea as on 5.11.2001 and final rates of concession for decontrolled fertilizers for the quarter July to September, 2001 is approximately 47% for urea, 29% for indigenous DAP, 16% for imported DAP, 43% for MOP and ranges between 23% to 29% in case of complex fertilizers.

Demand and supply of N.P.K. and D.A.P.

†633. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the current position of total demand and supply on N.P.K. and D.A.P. fertilizers in the country;

(b) whether there have been any gaps in the demand and supply of fertilizers during each of the last three years; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) NPK and Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP) fertilizers are decontrolled fertilizers and their availability is dependent on market forces of demand and supply. However, the Government monitors the availability of DAP, being major source of phosphate nutrient. The position of demand and supply of DAP in the country during 2001-02 is as follows:—

(lakh MTs)

Seasons	Assessed demand	Supply/availability
Kharif 2001	33.84	36.31 .
Rabi 2001-02	41.11	13.89 (upto 31.10.2001)

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) and (c) The demand and production of fertilizers in nutrient terms in last three years is as under:-

(lakh MTs)

Year	Nutrient	Demand	Production
1998-99	Nitrogen (N)	113.54	104.80
	Phosphate (P)	41.12	31.41
	Potash (K)	13.32	—
1999-2000	Nitrogen (N)	115.92	108.90
	Phosphate (P)	47.99	33.98
	Potash (K)	16.78	—
2000-2001	Nitrogen (N)	109.20	109.62
	Phosphate (P)	42.15	37.43
	Potash (K)	15.67	—

Gap in demand and production of N and P is bridged through imports. The entire requirement of MOP is met through imports in absence of known commercially viable source of production. The import of urea, being controlled fertiliser is on Governments account and DAP and MOP being decontrolled are imported on private trade account as per market requirement.

Search for strategic partner for IDPL

634. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (IDPL) was searching for a strategic partner to prevent closure;

(b) if so, the offers, if any, received in this regard; and

(c) the decision taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.